



## SYNCING INK WORKSHOP AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY- SUMMER 2021

**WHO:** The Howard University Theatre Arts Department in Partnership with the Artistic/ Administrative and Production team of SYNCING INK will collaborate for the continued development of the theatrical production. Students and faculty from the department will engage with the director, writer, producer, cast and production team of SYNCING INK and transfer artistic and creative capital for the purpose of shoring up the production before it's commercial run.

**WHAT:** This initiative is designed to provide Howard students with a laboratory for translating theoretical concepts into application. It will also provide the SYNCING INK company the quantitative and qualitative data needed to mount a successful public release of the play.

During the (6) six week summer session 10 students, led by the SYNCING INK writer and director, will construct a devised theatrical presentation using the conventions and vocabulary of Hip- Hop Theatre. The students will also complete apprenticeships in the areas of performance, playwriting, stage management, producing, directing and design with the company of SYNCING INK.

**WHERE:** The entire process will happen in the District of Columbia on the campus of Howard University within the Division of Fine Arts. While much of the practicum will utilize the Al Freeman Theatre we anticipate also using Ira Aldridge Theatre for break-out sessions. (The campus and these venues were selected because the play draws inspiration from the HU Department of Theatre Arts and its culture.)

**WHY:** Theatre Arts students of all disciplines are required to secure internships/ apprenticeships/ and fellowships during their tenure. Currently all of those opportunities happen off- campus. And, because the opportunities are off -campus the student's experiences often vary. This practicum will provide a first-hand knowledge of a professional process bolstered by the scaffolding provided in their respective curriculums.

In addition, the following list provides additional reasons for supporting this initiative:

- Hip-Hop music and Hip-Hop culture are not rigorously investigated in any theatre arts course. This supplemental course will provide an immersive experience with an industry phenom that's redefining storytelling aesthetics on stage.
- Networking/ Mentorship opportunities will happen throughout the process
- It will provide interdisciplinary study for the cohort
- A pipeline to commercial theatre production teams is afforded
- An intergenerational Think-Tank will be created for effective marketing strategies
- It will foster greater connectivity with the DMV Hip-Hop community
- Enable the next generation of storytellers to development of New Works (Plays) and
- Encourage further discourse about the world-wide phenomena called Hip-Hop and its continuum in academia.

WHEN: June 21, 2021 through July 30, 2021 / Monday through Saturday 9AM- 6PM  
Prior to SYNCING INK's New York commercial run

HOW: Producers of SYNCING INK will underwrite the workshop process, absorbing the cost of artists housing, transportation, meals, and per diem; all costs associated with the NY company during their 6 week or 2 week commitment will be covered by the SYNCING INK producing team.

Students will cover the cost of course and their housing during the process. Students will be vetted for the course by a team of both faculty and SNYCING INK administrative team. Those selected will enroll in a (1) credit production practicum course. All students will be housed on campus for the duration of the process.

The NY SYNCING INK team will be housed either on campus or in a nearby hotel.

Howard University's Theatre Arts Department will provide access to the Al Freedman Theatre and Ira Aldridge Theatre. A minimum of two faculty will associated with the process and responsible for the day to day operations. Those operations include but are not limited to being the instructor under whom the course will be offered.

The process will have two "moments of sharing" allowing the students and/or the professional company to present material developed in their rehearsals.

The SYNCING INK workshop at Howard University is in the continuum of Department of Theatre Arts offerings that champion theatrical traditions rooted in African diaspora traditions. The Hip-Hop Theatre Festival, birthed on Howard's campus legitimized the use of Hip-Hop aesthetics for storytelling. Workshopping SNYCING INK in 2021 would give the theatre department and its students continued custodianship of the art.